CULTURAL ARTS

JS 1 LESSON NOTES FOR 2nd TERM 2024/2025

SUBJECT TEACHER: MR OLUWAKEYE BLESSING (BLESON)

SCHEME OF WORK

Playing an instrument

Introduction to drama/theatre

Explanation of people involved in drama/theatre

Functions of drama

Elements of drama

Types of drama

What is Comedy

What is Tragedy

Origin of drama

INSTRUCTIONS: You are expected to copy minimum of 4 topics before resumption and then buy a recorder for your practical against 3rd term. Thanks

**PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT**

THE RECORDER

The Recorder is a family of woodwind musical instrument known as fipple flutes or internal duct flutes, that is, a whistle like instruments.

Recorders can be made from hard wood or plastics. Plastic recorders are cheaper and requires less maintenance. The recorder is a medieval instrument. It was very popular in England during 16th and 17th centuries, then ceased to the popular in the 1960’2. But now, it has gained its popularity once again because it is relatively cheap and easy to carry about.

Types of Recorder

There are four types of a recorder namely:

1. Descant recorder
2. Alto recorder
3. Tenor recorder
4. Bass recorder

They range in sizes from the smallest (descant) to the largest (Bass). They all have different tones. The larger the recorder, the more mellow the tome, and the smaller the recorder, the more highly pitched the tone.

Reasons why the recorder is a good choice

The recorder is a good choice for pupils who want to learn how to play a musical instrument because

1. It requires less breath control
2. It is easier to handle and the recorder’s fingering patterns are not complex
3. It is cheap and easy to get

The recorder has eight holes with seven in the front and one at the back for its smooth playing. We have the part of the recorder as; tail joint, middle joint, head joint, tone holes, window, mouth piece and reed or air passage.

Steps to playing the recorder

1. purchase a recorder
2. Assemble the three parts together, that is, the head joint, middle joint and tail joint
3. pick up the recorder and place the mouth piece between your lips
4. Balance it with your fingers by placing your left hand at the top and support with your right hand below.
5. Blow gently into the recorder and make sure your fingers fully cover the holes.

**INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA AND THEATRE**

The word drama comes from a Greek word “drama” or “drameniem’ which means ‘to act’ or “perform”. Drama refers to a play or play that imitates exciting actions performed before a real audience. The story line in drama is derived from experiences that pertain to life and those that are imagined. Drama is an activity that involves improvisation and pretence. Activities like festivals and ritual celebrations can be described as drama, because they re-enact actions. Rituals and festivals bring the best of imitation of action and impersonation out of people.

Masquerading is the most common of ritual; festivals in Africa but there are other types of festivals which are New yam festival called iwaji festival among the Igbo and Odun Ijesu among the Yoruba, Osun Osogbo festival and Eyo festival in Lagos.

Drama is also type of literature that is written to be performed before a live audience. This includes: The Lion and the Jewel, The trials of Brother Jero (Wole Soyinka), The Raft (J.P. Clark), The gods are not to blame (Ola Rotimi).

Theatre is the personification of drama on stage. The theatre is the place where the actual performance of a play takes place. The performers communicate with the audience through the use of gesture, speech, song, music or dance. Stage business such as lighting, scenery, costumes and sounds are used to make the experience come to life.

PEOPLE INVOLVED IN DRAMA/THEATRE

The success of every drama depends on the level of experience and commitment of the people involved. There are three major groups of people that are involved in drama production.

(1) CAST: These people take the acting role in the drama. There are two types of cast (Major or Minor cast). Examples of cast:

(a) Actor: This is a person who acts in a dramatic play. They are the male characters of a drama production.

(b) Actress (es): She is a woman who performs in a play or film (female actor). They are the female character of drama production.

(2) CREW: These people take the non-acting role in drama production. They work together with special skills to make a play or film successful e.g. Producer, playwright, director, stage manager, costumier, make-up artist etc.

(3) AUDIENCE: They are the people who come to watch and listen to drama performance.

EXPLANATION OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN DRAMA/THEATRE

1. Playwright: This is a person who writes a play from his ideas or imagination. The pays are usually based on real historical events. Ahmed Yerima’s the trials of Oba Ovonramwen is based on the trial of an oba in Benin Kingdom. The Lion and the Jewl is base on the cultural/social contact between Nigeria and other parts of the world. “The midnight Hotem” by Femi Osofisan is about corruption. Examples of playwrights in Nigeria: Wole Soyinka, Bose Sowande, Olu Obafemi, Zulu Sofola, Stella Oyedepo, Akinwumi Ishola, Ahmed Yerima, Irene Salami etc.
2. The Director: The director takes full responsibility for the success or failure of a play in the theater. He is the one who assigns roles to actors/actresses and instructs them at rehearsals. The directs works closely with the producer and playwright. He guides the actors into speaking, responding and moving in ways that is suitable for the vision of the play. The director also works with all the crew personnel to make the play interesting.
3. The producer: He is the sponsor of the activities and expenses involved in the staging of a play.

Characteristics of a Producer

1. Provides money for the production
2. Finances and arranges the production
3. Assigns roles to each production crew
4. Arranges for other needs of the actors.
5. Actors/Actresses: They are the people who perform the play in the theatre. They put their imagination, voice, skill, experience and whole being into their different parts of the play. They speak, behave, and generally act to portray the character. They are assigned to the real characters in a written play or drama book are called the dramatis personae. It is these characters that actors/actresses try to represent to the audience. There are well-known actors/actresses in Africa. They include Mercy Johnson, Funke Akindele, Halima Abubakar, Jim Iyke, John Dumelo, Kola Oyewo and others.
6. Designers: These are the people in charge of stage design. The design may involve construction of sets to represent a palace, a court room, a home or any other location specified in the play.

**Functions of Drama**

1. It teaches cultural and social values. Every good play teaches its audience about the acceptable ways of behavior in the society. Such behaviors are honesty, integrity, hardwork and other social values. Good behavior is rewarded while bad ones are punished. It also educates the readers on history or culture.
2. Drama aids learning: It helps students to develop communicate skills. It remains permanent in the minds of readers and what was learnt are easily remembered.
3. Drama provides information: It provides information about faraway, times, places, traditions and sociopolitical realities of a group of people. Athol Eugard’s Sizwe Bansi is dead is about the effect of the apartheid regime on the black man in south Africa.
4. It serves as entertainment, which is the primary function of drama. Many go the theatre to watch a play that will amuse interest and make them enjoy themselves.
5. It is used for healing: It is means of treating diseases and mental disorders. It helps in the development of an individual. It provides the audience to release their tension through different means like clapping or laughing.
6. It helps in mental development: It helps in the development of a child’s mental reasoning, when they memorise lines and master their roles in a play, which in turn make them better and mentally alert. It promotes critical and create thinking abilities.
7. Drama creates awareness especially on government policies. It promotes understanding between the people and the government through peaceful co-existence, stability and development. Many government policies are presented through drama and the people are educated on what the government is doing.

ELEMENT OF DRAMA

These are the basic tools needed for the performance of a play. They are:

1. SCRIPT: This is the play in written form. They are the words (lines) to be said by each actor/actress while on stage and the actions to be performed.
2. IMPROVISATION: It is the practice of acting in a play without previous preparation (unscripted play).
3. PLOT: This is the arrangement in a logical manner. It is simply called “The storyline”.
4. THEME: It is the idea or message the playwright is passing across to the audience (subject matter).
5. DICTION: This is the language of the characters. The characters use language to express their thoughts. It reveals love, hatred, hopes, fears and plans of the characters. The diction could be formal or informal.
6. CHARACTER: These are the persons or member of cast in the play to present the play actions. There are different types of characters. They are:
7. Protagonist: This is the main character in a play. A male character is called the Hero while female character is Heroine. The story of the play is about him/her.
8. The Antagonist: This is the character that opposes the protagonist. He struggles with the hero and looks for ways of pulling him down or stopping his goals.
9. STAGE: This is a raised platform upon which a play takes place or performed.
10. SETTING: This is the time and place of events in the play. It means the constructions, arrangements and properties on the stage.
11. SOUND: It is whatever the ear can hear during a drama performance. It includes music, songs, voices and sound effects.
12. SPECTACLE: This is the visual aspects of the play (costumes, make-up, lighting, scenery, props etc)
13. AUDIENCE

**TYPES OF DRAMA**

There are two types of drama namely:

1. SCRIPTED/WRITTEN DRAMA: This is also called a play text or play script. It is a written play by individuals that is expected to be performed e.g. “The trials of Brother Jero” by Wole Soyinka, “Our husband has gone mad again” by Ola Rotimi.
2. NON-SCRIPTED/UNWRITTEN DRAMA: This is the type of drama that is not written down. The characters improvise on stage. They act according to what they feel is best for the audience.

**Forms of Drama**

1. COMEDY: This is any play which ends happily. It is a light, entertaining and amusing play. It’s main purpose is to amuse the audience. For example “The trials of Brother Jero” and “The Lions and the Jewel” by Wole Soyinka.
2. TRAGEDY: This is the opposite of comedy. It is usually serious and tense with an unhappy ending. The main character may suffer one form of calamity or death e.g. “The gods are not to blame” by Ola Rotimi, and “Zunyi and Uchenna by Pierre Meunier.
3. TRAGI-COMEDY: It is a comic play which combines both tragedy and comedy. It is a very serious play with violent situations, yet with happy ending.
4. DANCE DRAMA: It is a play that is full of dances. Dances are used in place of dialogue to communicate in drama. It is also called BALLET.
5. MUSICAL DRAMA: This is a play that is full of music. Most of the words in the play are sung. It is usually called OPERA.
6. MIME: This is the carrying out of an action in drama without saying any word. The actor uses social expression, gestures and body movement to express his ideas.
7. MASK DRAMA: It is a type of drama that is dominated with the use of masks. It is usually used when roles in a play are more than the available cast.
8. DRAMATIZED FOLKTALES: It is the oldest technique of getting stories for dramatic performance. Drama is created from folktales, which are traditional stories that are passed orally from one generation to the other (moonlight stories).

WHAT IS COMEDY

Comedy is any play which ends happily. It is a light, entertaining and amusing play. It’s main purpose is to amuse the audience e.g ‘The trials of Brother Jero’ and ‘The Lion and the Jewel’ by Wole Soyinka.

TYPES OF COMEDY

1. Romantic comedy: This focuses on the problem of young lovers who ty to overcome some battles in order to get married.
2. Comedy of manners: This is a comedy that ridicules popular customs and manners of people.
3. Satiric comedy: This is based on a comic attack on foolishness and public vices.
4. Tragicomedy: This is a form of play which begins with joyful events but ends in sorrow.

WHAT IS TRAGEDY

Tragedy is the opposite of comedy. It is usually serious and tense with an unhappy ending. The main character may suffer one form of calamity or death e.g The gods are not to blame by Ola Rotimi

CHARACTERISTICS OF TRAGEDY

1. It has 3 parts beginning, middle and ending
2. The size of the play is moderate, not small or big
3. It produces strong emotions that brings pity for the hero
4. The hero is a noble man who has weaknesses

ORIGIN OF DRAMA

Drama originated from different sources. These include the following:

1. MIMESIS: This is the imitation of someone else’s actions, words, manners and gestures. It is a form of body movement, facial expression, postures that represent those in real life. It was Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher who traced the origin of drama to mimesis. Drama started from the love that we have for imitating others. So, during ritual festivals, time is always given to entertainment e.g. Ekini festival in Ijebuland.
2. RITUAL: These are traditional religious practices that are performed in particular ways by people who are trained to do them. They are forms of worship that are accepted by each community. They could be in the worship of a gods such as Egun, Osun or worship of the ancestors or rites of passage such as puberty, childbirth or marriage. Their worshippers imitate supernatural beings (actors). For example, during the masquerade festival the masquerade makes people believe that he is an ancestor, the performance is accompanied by song, dance and drums.
3. STORYTELLING: This is the act of telling oral tales after the day’s work. Storytelling is a means of relaxation among indigenous people. In storytelling, the performer is the storyteller that narrates folktales. He ensures that the audience is involved in the play. He changes his voice to reflect the characters in the story. The performance is also accompanied with music, song, dance and clap. And these ensure is a close connection between the performance and audience.

Dramatic Elements of Festivals and Storytelling

1. DIALOGUE: This is the conversation between two or more characters in a play. It helps us to understand the characters in a play. Dialogue in festivals and storytelling are expressed in the forms of words and actions.
2. ACTION: This is the physical movements in festivals and storytelling sessions. During ritual performances, the worshippers move in ways which are usually dramatic.
3. STAGE: This is the place where the performance of festivals or storytelling takes place.
4. AUDIENCE: They refers to the people who are present at the performance of rituals and storytelling. These are believed to be human and non-human, or visible and non-visible.